transmission projects for their implementation through IPTC route. Seventeen companies including eight multinational companies have shown their interest for the same.

The Government plans to add around 1,00,000 MW of generation capacity by the year 2012. For evacuation of this power, investment in transmission would have to be made by the private sector, in addition to investments through budgetary support of the Government and external borrowings, besides internal resources of POWERGRID.

In order to facilitate the entry of private sector into transmission, vide the Electricity Law Amendment Act, 1998 as notified on 31.12.1998, transmission is now treated as a distinct activity. While POWERGRID would continue to be the Central Transmission Utility to undertake inter-State transmission and development of a National Grid, private sector participation in transmission is likely to receive a boost with the availability of a transparent and level playing field under the regulatory umbrella of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Payments for the supply of energy meters

393. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 172 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether pending payments to suppliers against supplies of energy meters have since been cleared as promised in parts (c) and (d) of the above referred question;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered for the misappropriation Central Government funding to the State Government of Manipur and Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Direction of CEA for universal meterisation

394. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have directed the various State Electricity Boards and Corporations to ensure universal meterisation by the year 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) have ignored the direction of CEA and have meterised the existing Irrigation Power sets by providing expensive electric meters which are not tamper-proof;

(d) whether there are several complaints from farmers all over Karnataka on procurement of electric meters instead of mechanical meters; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by the CEA in this regard to minimize the sale of electric meters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As a follow up of the decision taken in Chief Minister's/Power Minister's Conference held on February, 2000 and reiterated in the Conference held in March, 20C1, the States have been requested to take steps for full meterisation of all consumers by December, 2001.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected from the Government of Karnataka.

Proposal to acquire stake on Enron by Government

395. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering acquiring Enron stake in the Dabhol Power Company as a last resort;